

10915ID

## Connectionless Network Express Route

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### ABSTRACT

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Communications systems increasingly use connectionless networks such as IP  
networker. However in practical connectionless networks traffic bottlenecks arise which  
10 slow the flow of traffic. The present invention provides a method of operating a  
connectionless network to provide a priority routing service for a predetermined network  
user having a plurality of customers communicating with said user via said network, the  
network comprising a plurality of network elements and links therebetween, the method  
comprising: maintaining an express route comprising one or more said links between two  
15 end elements; at least one said end element arranged to identify data packets originating  
from said user and destined for a said customer or originating from a said customer and  
destined for said user and diverting said packets along said express route.